

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3875X

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CINCPAC

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, KS

SUBJECT: ASSEMBLY COMPROMISES ON TESTIMONY BILL; NDP FLOOR
LEADER SEES PAK

REF: SEOUL 8308

SUMMARY: SINCE KIM OK-SON AFFAIR, NATIONAL ASSEMBLY BUDGET
SESSION HAS PROCEEDED SMOOTHLY WITH LITTLE CONTROVERSY
EXCEPT OVER NEW TESTIMONY BILL AND THIS WAS FINALLY
RESOLVED NOVEMBER 13. UNUSUAL EVENT WAS NDP'S NEW FLOOR
LEADER'S CALL ON PRESIDENT PAK ON FOLLOWING DAY. END SUMMARY.

1. WITH EXCEPTION OF SOME COMMITTEE DEBATE ON NEW TESTIMONY
BILL, NATIONAL ASSEMBLY SESSION HAS BEEN RELATIVELY UNEVENTFUL
SINCE KIM OK-SON'S BLUNTED ATTACK ON ROKG AND HER SUBSEQUENT
RESIGNATION. BOTH RULING AND OPPOSITION PARTIES ARE WELL
AWARE OF PUBLIC DESIRE FOR TAX REDUCTION AND ASSEMBLY
SOURCES REPORT "VERY SERIOUS NEGOTIATIONS ON TAX LAW BILLS."
DRP POLICY COMMITTEE CHIEF, PARK JOON KYU, AND DRP
MEMBER, MUN TAE JOON, BOTH CONFIRM THAT GOVERNMENT WILL
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ACCEPT SYMBOLIC CUTS ON BUDGET AND THAT OPPOSITION PARTY

WILL BACK AWAY FROM DEMAND FOR SUBSTANTIAL CUT WITHOUT FUSS.

2. ON NOVEMBER 13 BOTH DRP AND NDP AGREED IN PRINCIPLE TO REVAMPING OF CONTROVERSIAL DEFENSE BILL, VETOED BY ROK IN JUNE AND SUBSEQUENTLY REPEALED (NOVEMBER 1) BY NATIONAL ASSEMBLY. ONLY STICKING POINT WAS KEY QUESTION OF WHO IN ROKG CAN DECIDE TO REFUSE ASSEMBLY ACCESS TO DOCUMENTS AND OFFICIALS. INTERESTED IN EASIEST POSSIBLE ACCESS TO INFORMATION, NDP CONTENDED THAT MINISTERS MUST DECIDE WHICH INDIVIDUALS MAY NOT APPEAR BEFORE ASSEMBLY OR COMMITTEE AND WHAT DOCUMENTS MAY BE WITHHELD. DRP PREFERRED THAT ONLY A CHIEF OF AGENCY NEED DECIDE. COMPROMISE ASSURES OPPOSITION PARTY THAT CHIEF OF AGENCY WILL APPEAR IN PERSON WITH REASONS OFFICIAL OR DOCUMENT CANNOT APPEAR. BOTH PARTIES ALSO AGREE THAT SCOPE OF SUCH TESTIMONY BEFORE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY SHOULD BE LIMITED TO MATTERS RELATED TO NATIONAL ASSEMBLY DELIBERATIONS.

3. IN UNUSUAL DEVELOPEMT, NDP'S NEW FLOOR LEADER, KIM UN-HA, WAS ACCOMPANIED BY DRP FLOOR LEADER TO BLUE HOUSE TO MEET WITH PRESIDENT PAK ON NOVEMBER 14. NDP SOURCES TOLD EMBOFF THEY SAW NO CONNECTION BETWEEN VISIT AND ANY CURRENT DEBATE IN ASSEMBLY, ADMITTING CALL WAS OUT OF ORDINARY, WELCOMED BY NDP, AND EXCELLENT FOR PARTY PRESTIGE AND SELF-IMAGE. HAPDONG INDICATED IN ITS LATE-BREAKING STORY ON CALL, THAT KIM HAD "EXPLAINED TO PRESIDENT NDP EFFORTS TO SEEK REVISION OF TAX LAWS AND CUT IN GENERAL BUDGET." ERICSON

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